in electronic media allowed but with strings attached appearing in Times of India dated July 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect our instruments of media and electronic media processings; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguards our indigenous electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation

1452. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision to set up a Mumbai Railway Development Corporation in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government on equal cost sharing basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Memorandum of Collaboration has since been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Memorandum of Collaboration is likely to be finalised and the Mumbai Railway Development Corporation registered under the Companies Act?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation as a wholly Government owned Company under the Companies Act, 1956 under the Ministry of Railways with equity participation by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra. The functions of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation, among others, will be:

(1) Develop co-ordinated plans for the rail components to be included in MUTP-II and other planned investments in Mumbai suburban rail services and execute the resulting infrastructure projects.

(2) Integrate urban development plans for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region with rail capacity plans and proposed investments.

(3) Co-ordinate and ensure improvement of track drainage and the removal of encroachments and trespassers from the railway's right-of-way and station approaches.

(4) Execute specific projects for the commercial development of railway land and apportion the net income in the ratio of 1:1:1 for Railway project in Mumbai area, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The process of preparing Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra is underway.

Autonomy for Labour Revamp in Steel Sector

1453. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "FICCI demands autonomy for labour revamp in steel sector" appearing in the Financial Express dated July 9, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the policy of the Government over rationalisation of manpower deployment as essential requirement for economising production cost to be globally competitive;

(d) whether the Government have carried out any exercise on estimates of over deployment of manpower and formulated schemes for golden hand-shakes in the past and evaluation of such schemes in the past and effective strategies proposed to deal with the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Norms for Opening of Post Offices

1454. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for the opening of new post offices;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa in above plan period;

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade some post offices in the State of Orissa during the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The norms prescribed for opening new post offices are given in the attached Statement.